

# Record

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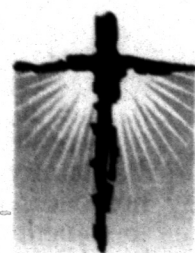
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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Katrina rebuild wraps up on Gulf Coast

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

For David and Patty Baldwin, three years of living in travel trailers many miles from home has come to an end. The Baldwins, two of the longest-serving volunteers in the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding program jointly sponsored by Gulf Coast Association (GCBA) and the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), closed up shop on the first of October and returned to their home in Vicksburg where they are members of First Church.

The pair, who have been married 46 years, finished their service as full-time construction coordinators of the joint GCBA/MBC rebuilding program headquartered in the GCBA building in Gulfport.

"We didn't have any construction experience when we came down here, but we knew we had to do something after the hurricane so we started praying" said David, who had retired after 34 years with International Paper Company. Patty was also retired after teaching school for 29 years.

The Baldwins were led to help staff a shelter immediately after the storm, and quickly rose to shelter managers. While at the shelter, they had an opportunity to talk with Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry and disaster relief coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Didlake gave them several leads on ministry opportunities in the Pearllington area - one of the hardest-hit during the storm. They served a year at First Southern Baptist Church in Pearllington, helping to prepare the church for housing and building a campground, among other projects.

At the end of that first year, they responded to an invitation to work at the GCBA headquarters on a proposed association multi-purpose complex that would house the association's next major disaster relief effort while also serving as a year-round facility for association activities.

That building has not yet been built, but the Baldwins started helping out with the details of the massive, multi-million-dollar GCBA/MBC rebuilding program. Before long, they were coordinating all construction for the program.

"We could see the need right away to get the program organized," David said, "so we started getting volunteer survey teams together and sending them out so we would have an idea of what needed to be done."

Those initial surveys resulted in the construction of 50 new homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina - nine homes in 2006,



**FINISHING TOUCHES** — David Baldwin (right) and wife Patty (second from right) talk with Ryan Kruse (left), Lori Kruse (second from left) and Cheri Wollenberg at the site of a Hurricane Katrina rebuilding project in Harrison County. The Kruses and Wollenberg, members of First Church in Fayetteville, Ar., were members of the last official team of volunteers to work on a Gulf Coast Association/Mississippi Baptist Convention rebuilding project more than three years after the killer storm came ashore in Mississippi. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

seven homes in 2007, and 34 homes in 2008. However, those totals do not reflect the overall effort of GCBA, MBC, and Baptists from Mississippi, the U.S., and around the world who came after Katrina help get the Gulf Coast back on its feet.

"We're grateful to have played a small part in all of that," Patty said. "We prayed to the Lord for a place of service, and He answered our prayers."

"It's been hard at times, but rewarding," David said. "Just when we thought we had things under control, something would fall through. I remember one occasion when some money we were counting on was pulled at the last minute. We didn't know what we were going to do, but a few days later we got a telephone call from someone who wanted to donate \$278,000. The Lord took care of it."

"The most rewarding times for me were when I got to see God at work in people's lives," said Patty. "We saw that over and over, and it was a privilege to watch Him accomplishing great things through His servants."

"We had worked with David and Patty while they were at Pearllington and knew the heart they had for the work," said Steve Mooneyham, GCBA missions director. "When they decided that the Father was leading away from the ministry at Pearllington, we approached them about joining with the association as our disaster relief coordinators. They joined us in

February 2007 and worked diligently to restructure our approach to rebuild."

"David put together a team to assist him in doing the work in the three coastal counties. From those who came to work in the office to those who worked on the homes, David, Patty, and all the others worked tirelessly with volunteer teams to complete the work on houses damaged by Katrina."

"In 2008, we shifted our emphasis from repair to complete rebuild. David had recognized that most of the repair work had been done and we needed to focus on helping folks build from the ground up. Through David's leadership of his team we helped quite a number of families into new homes. That was a blessing to see."

"I shudder to think where we would be without David and Patty. I do know that we were blessed beyond measure to have them as a part of our association."

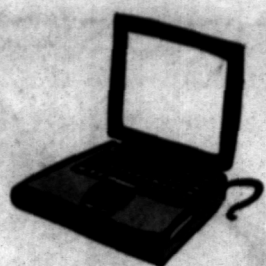
"We owe them, and all who helped them, a debt we can never repay," Mooneyham said.

"We're going to go home for a while," Patty said, "but we'll be praying for God to open up another opportunity for service. This work has been so fulfilling."

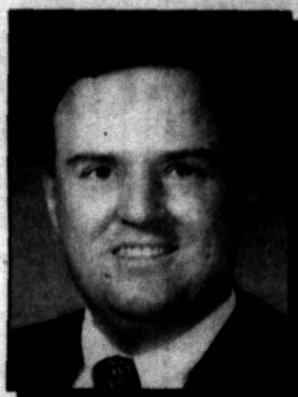
Chances are, they won't be home in Vicksburg for long.

"David already has his shots for international travel," Patty said, "and I'm getting mine right now."





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# A mission of eternal consequences

**H**ave you read about the new stadium being built in the Meadowlands of New Jersey to house the New York Jets and New York Giants professional football teams? Scheduled to open in time for the 2010 season at a cost of more than \$1.6 billion dollars, it is a marvel of modern engineering — and marketing.

Among the 82,500 seats in the new stadium, there will be four separate levels of luxury suites with every conceivable amenity. There will be 9,300 Coaches Club seats, which will feature an all-you-can-eat-and-drink clubhouse area and a 50-yard line portico that opens directly onto the playing field and puts club members almost within arm's reach of the home team bench.

There will be four high-definition scoreboards measuring 40 feet in height and 100 feet in length, as well as 800 concession points. Planners have included a 300,000 square-foot outdoor plaza for pre-game activities, and a train line is being built from Penn Station in New York City to whisk fans to and from the games. State of the art lighting systems will

change the stadium's colors to match the Jets' or Giants' team colors, depending on which team is playing at the time.

All of this comes at a price, however. For their part, the Jets plan to auction "Personal Seat Licenses" for the best 2,000 seats in the stadium. A Personal Seat License is not a ticket to a game in the stadium, but merely an entitlement to purchase a ticket for that seat for each Jets ball game — and those tickets will go for as much as \$700 per seat.

By Tuesday of last week, one pair of Personal Seat Licenses had been bought for \$70,000 for the choicest seats. Reports of \$65,000 for less desirable seating have been reported — and that's not counting revenue from the luxury suites, another

cash cow for team owners which can run into the millions of dollars per suite.

Even with the national economy in crisis, team owners believe they're struck a deep vein of gold. "There are still affluent sports fans, whether they're face painters or corporations," David Carter, executive director of the Sports Business Institute at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, told MSNBC's SportsBiz column. "With 2,000 seats in a market of 20 million people, monetary value should hold. Even if people are cutting back, they may love football so much they won't cut back there."

Wouldn't it be great if tomorrow morning's newspaper held news that we are so intent — so fanatic — about reaching people for Christ that we're going to pour \$1.6 billion dollars into the effort and then spend millions more just for the privilege of getting there and being involved? Wouldn't it be great if 82,500 of us made the effort each

week to gather in one place for worship and praise of our Heavenly Father and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and if such a momentous gathering was repeated each week in venues all across the country?

Well, why not? Why not dedicate ourselves and our resources to something infinitely more important than a football game (Matthew 28:18-20)? Do we not realize that time is growing short for untold masses to hear about Jesus? Do we not understand that dark forces are at work in the world that seek to destroy and devour the unsaved?

There are those who tell us it is an impossible task, to win the whole world for Jesus — but with God all things are possible. Do we have the boldness to lead out on this mission of eternal consequences? Do we have the faith to do it?

It's time we decided, because we don't know how much time we have left. Let's get busy.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Suggestions for difficult times

By Jerry W. Mixon  
Stewardship Director  
Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.

**D**uring a financial crisis, the world and our church members do not need to see the church express itself in panic, fear, or doubt. The church should express faith and trust in God. Here are a few suggestions to help you face this crisis:

- Take an honest look at promotion of giving. Ask your pastor, staff, and finance committee to plan an emphasis on giving the tithe. Your state stewardship office can provide you with free materials.

Your church should develop an annual giving emphasis. The problem is that some churches do get lax from time to time, and they need a gentle reminder that the tithe belongs to the Lord. Wake up your church with a stewardship campaign and share with them the need of reaching your community and the world.

Financial experts remind us that during tough times, the faithful continue to give. It is true they may have less money to give, but they will give. Your target should be the casual givers and the casual attenders. Casual givers give when they have extra cash. The casual attenders are those who attend once or twice a month and only give when present.

- Take a look at spending practices. A purchase system should be set up to control unnecessary spending. All staff personnel should be cautioned to spend only for needs of ministry, and delay all non-essential spending.

- Begin to set aside a three-month emergency fund. Most financial crises are temporary and in time the crisis will pass. Your church should have enough money set aside to operate staff and ministry for three full months without any income from the members.

- Reevaluate all of the programs and activities of the church. This reevaluation should be in connection with your church mission statement. I

understand that once a program is started in a Baptist church, it is difficult to ever bring it to a halt but, frankly, many churches are doing things that are convenient for the membership but have little or nothing to do with the mission of the church.

- Review your church's insurance policies. There may be some savings by changing companies. Another review involve expensive literature orders. Many churches have ordered materials that are still lying around and never used. Control heating and cooling expenses by installing programmable thermostats.

- Finally — and only as a last resort — consider trimming the budget. Our problem many

times is that this is the first action we take instead of the last. The first item easiest to trim is the Cooperative Program (CP). It appears to be the least popular and the one with no face.

No one will come from outside your church and make a plea to keep missions at the present level. Your church would never think of downsizing the Lottie Moon Offering goal, but when you cut the Cooperative Program, you also trim funding for the International Mission Board (IMB).

In 2008, CP funded IMB with 37% of that agency's budget. The Lottie Moon Offering funded 52% of the total IMB budget, so CP gave only 15% less than the Lottie Moon Offering for international missions support. When you cut your CP gifts, you place a greater burden on the Lottie Moon Offering, which has to make up the difference.

Once you have considered these suggestions, also consider making a commitment to restore the budget to full funding as soon as possible.

Editor's note: The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jmixon@mbcb.org.



# Chinese pastor's sons beaten by officials

BEIJING (BP) — BEIJING (BP)—The oldest son of a prominent Chinese house church leader has regained consciousness and has spoken about his severe beating at the hands of government officials, saying he wanted to die if his story would cause people to grasp how shameful the persecution of Christians in China has become.

Zhang Jian, the son of "Pastor Bike" Zhang Mingxuan, chairman of the Federation House Church movement, was beaten by officers of China's Public Security Bureau (PSB) on October 16. The next day, he was able to speak with staff from China Aid Association, a human rights organization based in the United States.

China Aid reported that Zhang Jian's right eye is severely wounded and doctors are unsure whether he will regain sight. His nose bone and eye bone are broken, and doctors have recommended further CAT scans and surgery.

Despite his serious condition, the pastor's son left the hospital because PSB officials were watching him there and he feared for his safety, China Aid said. "I could not believe human beings could be so evil," Zhang Jian told China Aid by phone. "Where is law, where is justice? I was crying out to the Lord. I felt I was dying and told the Lord, 'Lord, please take my life as a martyr.'"

"Maybe this is the only way to awaken the conscience of the world and for the Chinese to open their eyes to see clearly that this is the religious freedom in China. I would like to die if my life could be used as a wakeup call and could help Chinese brothers and sisters further more freedom to worship the Lord freely — to demonstrate the

darkness here in China."

Zhang Jian said that his mother called him around noon the day of the beating and asked him to come to her apartment because plainclothes officers "along with hired thugs" had broken in and were throwing her belongings onto the street.

"When I got there, I saw my mom lying on the ground, being knocked down by these thugs who were led by a man who claimed to be the cousin of the property owner with whom my parents had signed two-year rental contract less than a month ago," Zhang Jian told China Aid. "My younger brother Zhang Chuang was badly beaten up already with his mouth swollen bleeding."

"I asked, 'How can you guys throw other people's private items on the street?' I tried to use my body to protect my mom from being hurt by them. Then this group of 15 officers and thugs immediately surrounded me and started beating my head and body with iron bars and said, 'You are the one. We need to teach you a lesson as troublemaker.'"

"I was very angry and upset in the beginning," Zhang Jian said. "How could this happen in the daytime? My parents do not deserve to be treated like this just simply being preachers of the Gospel. My blood ran over from upstairs to the downstairs until I lost consciousness."

Zhang Jian told China Aid that the doctors wanted him to have surgery to correct some of his wounds, but his family did not have the appropriate funds.

"I want to see some justice to be done and I want my father to be back home," he said. "Where can we find a place to stay? No one in Beijing is able to host us. Pray for us, especially for my mom. She is exhausted."

Chinese officials also have



CHRISTIANS BEATEN — Zhang Jian (left), severely beaten October 16 by Chinese government authorities, is pictured in this file photo with his father, "Pastor Bike" Zhang Mingxuan, chairman of the Federation House Church movement. The beating of Zhang and later, his brother, was reported by the watchdog group China Aid Association. (BP photo courtesy of China Aid)

attempted to shut down the house church where Zhang Mingxuan preaches. On October 10, police sealed the door of the church and blocked it with two truckloads of garbage. Officials were not letting anyone enter the church and had cut off electricity, even though the government just weeks earlier had given the church permission to meet, China Aid said.

The U.S. State Department called on the Chinese government to release Zhang immediately, permit his family members to return home, condemn the violent acts committed against his sons, and bring the individuals responsible for the persecution to justice.

The statement came the day after two congressmen, Frank R. Wolf, R-Va., and Christopher Smith, R-N.J., issued a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, asking her to call for Zhang's release and demand that the damages inflicted upon his family be rectified.

Both congressmen met with Zhang and his wife in Beijing this past July and heard firsthand about the abuses Christians in China suffer at the hands of Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials.

Pastor Zhang was traveling

when his family was attacked and efforts to contact him had been unsuccessful. On October 22, however, he called his eldest son to say he was being detained by public security officers but was not allowed to tell anyone where or in what conditions he was being held, according to a report from the human rights group China Aid Association.

Zhang's wife and sister also reportedly have been detained in a Beijing hotel.

In order to receive medical reimbursement for his injuries, PSB officials coerced Pastor Bike's eldest son, Zhang Jian, to sign a statement that he received only minor injuries in the beating, China Aid reported. Hospital records, however, indicated he received severe injuries that required complicated surgery.

Pastor Bike has been arrested 26 times, suffered multiple beatings, and has been evicted from his home numerous times because of his faith. China Aid, on the web at [www.chinaaid.org](http://www.chinaaid.org), said it is assisting Zhang Jian and his family with medical expenses, legal help, and other needs and urged concerned citizens to contact the Chinese Embassy by writing to 2201 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007, or by calling 202-338-6688.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

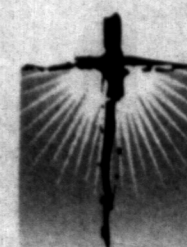
Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department director Paul Harrell states that "Mississippi Baptists need to make an immediate response to get food ready to ship to Honduras in the wake of Hurricane Mitch." Early reports state that as many as 7,000 died in flooding and mudslides.

### 20 years ago

William Carey College trustees rescind an earlier action to retire president Ralph Noonkester on his 65th birthday. By press time, Noonkester reported having enough cash gifts and pledges in hand to make unnecessary the proposed refinancing of two campus building projects.

### 30 years ago

First Church, Starkville, approves a proposed building designed to seat 1300 in worship. It will also house offices, a library, choir room, and baptismal dressing room. Estimated cost, \$317,000. D.C. Applegate is pastor.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## TV obscenity continues

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — CBS and other broadcast television networks increasingly are pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable entertainment as the Federal Communications Commission, the government body charged with enforcing indecency laws, awaits an upcoming Supreme Court hearing in order to determine a response. The Parents Television Council, a nonpartisan watchdog group, filed an indecency complaint with the FCC after an Oct. 20 episode of the CBS show *Two and a Half Men* which featured a three-minute-long strip club scene featuring a lap dance. The show aired at 8 p.m. in the Central and Mountain time zones, violating a law that prohibits the airing of indecent material before 10 p.m. In September, CBS aired male nudity on *Survivor: Gabon*. In August, CBS aired an uncensored utterance of the f-word on *Big Brother 10*. During the summer, CBS glamorized extramarital partner-swapping and drug use on the drama *Swingtown*. Among other offenses by network broadcasters: a nude photo shoot on CW during *America's Next Top Model* in March; nudity on NBC's *Las Vegas* in February; an uncensored c-word on NBC's *Today Show* in February; and an uncensored f-word on ABC's *Good Morning America* in January. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on "fleeting" profanity in *FCC v. Fox* beginning Nov. 4, taking up the issue of broadcast decency for the first time in three decades.



## BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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RQKPR WU RBY ADQL

EWRB FAA RBWUY

BYFQR; FUL AYFU UDR

KURD RBWUY DEU

KULYQPRFULWUC.

XQDGYQMP RBQYY:

OWGY

Clue: P = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Fifty-Five Twenty-Two

## NUMEROLOGY

Numerology is by a simple definition the study of numbers. When applied to the Bible, it is the study of the use of numbers and the meaning of numbers in a biblical context. For some people it is the basis of their biblical studies and interpretation of what the Bible is saying. Certainly, there are numbers throughout the Bible that do have weight, meaning, and implication of interpretation. Carried to extremes, you will probably run into some serious problems.

I remember years ago hearing a preacher expound on a certain verse. In his interpretation of the verse, he pointed out that there were three commas found in the verse. According to him, they were a direct reference to the Holy Spirit. That is a far-fetched application of numerology. I suppose of all of the numbers and whatever interpretation you choose to give to them the one that is the most prominent is seven. It is generally accepted as the number of divine completion. As you read the Bible, you will see seven days for the Creation, seven churches to which Jesus wrote in the Revelation, or 70 years for the judgment that came to God's people in captivity. All of that is to say that when seven or multiples of seven appear, many of God's people wonder what is the significance of that number.

At the end of September 2008, the largest fall in the Dow Jones average of the stock market took place — and closed out the day at 777. Economically it was a shock and a wakeup call to many in our nation, but it seemed to me that many Christians thought that they had better turn their eyes toward Heaven and listen to what the God of Heaven was saying to us. I am not saying that God manipulated the numbers for the stock market fall. I surely do not believe that He sits around and wrings His hands worrying about the economic troubles in America, but if your mind turned toward God and if all of us started to recognize the urgency, the place, and the power of prayer, that is a good thing.

No doubt all of us are deeply concerned about the condition of our country, the issues at stake in the upcoming election, and the greater moral condition

that exists in our land. During the time of the stock market fall, the scrambling by Congress to figure out what to do to bail us out, and the political pushing and shoving, aback and forth, I heard from people all across our state and nation saying, "It is time to pray!" You got that right. It is time to pray for America. It is time to pray for our churches. It is time to pray for Mississippi. It is time to pray for Jackson. It is time to pray that our lives would be what God wants them to be and not what we want.

It is difficult to even remotely think of being a serious minded Christian and not hear the sounds in the background of God's plea to His people when He says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). Indeed, He will. We are in a critical condition and with the needs in our country, it begins with the people of God to find the answers. The

answers and the burden of responsibility of finding what God would have us to be begins not with the election, not with the stock market, not with Wall Street or Main Street, not with the court house or the White House, but rather in the church house. God's people, bowed before Him and yielded in humility to His will, can raise and lift this nation up. It is not a magic formula. It is the Master's formula. It is to listen to Him and respond to His will.

The future and the hope for tomorrow does not rest in a bailout plan by Congress, a selection process that chooses our favorite candidate, or an oil drilling program wherever it may be located, but in God's people turning to Him. Recently a man asked me, "Well, why doesn't God do something about the situation and help people out?" God will act when we act in response to His call and do His will. When God calls on us to pray it is not just to find a period of time when we can mouth some words. It is a genuine encounter with God about our own needs and the needs of the world around us. It is not even



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to just ask for the things we would like or to tell God what He ought to do so we would be better off or feel better. In fact, that kind of praying is warned against by James when he said, "You have not because you ask not" (James 4:2b). He did not stop there. He went on to say, "When you ask, you ask amiss to consume it upon your own lust" (James 4:3). What he is saying is you ask for inappropriate things. You ask for things that will simply satisfy your desires.

For many people it is a shocking revelation that God's desires may not be the same as their desires. His plan may not be simply to make us happy. So what do we do? We seek the Lord. We align our lives with His revealed truth in His Word. We seek the greater good of the Kingdom of God as our standard for setting goals. We turn from those things that are destructive in our lives and are dishonoring to God in our behavior.

Is there hope for America? Absolutely! God loves us, wants the best for us, and is even now reaching out for our hearts to turn to His heart.

It is time to pray.

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**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, OVETT, MISS.**, is in need of a church van to pick up children for Sunday School and church. If you or your church have a used van, contact Bro. Jim Balliet at 601-425-0542 or Eric Pugh at 601-788-1927.

**SENIOR PASTOR: PARKWOOD Baptist Church**, a mission-minded conservative/progressive church that supports our local association, BSC and SBC, is seeking pastor skilled in preaching, teaching, visitation, counseling, visioning, soul-winning, discipleship and administration. Send resumes to PBC c/o Donna Jennings, Chairperson, PSC, 1069 Central Drive, Concord, NC 28027. Or donnaPastorSearch@carolina.rr.com. Website: www.parkwoodbaptist.com.

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**MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, Miss.**, is seeking a part-time or bi-vocational pastor. Please submit resumes to the search committee, 5609 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209 or email to talbaughn@bellsouth.net.

**CHALYBENTE BAPTIST CHURCH, Chalybeate, Miss.**, is seeking a pastor. Please send resume and references to pastor search committee, c/o Jim Jackson, 1040 CR 225, Walnut, MS 38683. Deadline is November 15, 2008.

**MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, Louisville, Miss.**, is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to search committee, 5379 Bond Rd, Louisville, Ms. 39339 or macksimmon@aol.com. For more info call 662-779-3957.

**SEEKING PART-TIME MINISTER OF music:** Gillburg Baptist Church, Gillsburg, Miss., searching for a minister of music. Mail resumes for this position or the interim position to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601 542-1230.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Brookhaven, MS**, is seeking a full-time worship leader to lead a contemporary worship ministry. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson St., Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to ryan@cbcbrookhaven.org.

**PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS** seeking a part-time Minister of Music for Worship Services, Adult, youth, and children's choirs. Please forward resume to the Pelahatchie Baptist Church, search committee, P.O. Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, attn: Due McKinion. Email: due@rankin-county.org.

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Cleveland, MS**, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumes to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 302, Rosedale, MS 38769. Deadline November 1, 2008.

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# Homosexual rights group again targets Miss. College

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Homosexual rights group Soulforce picketed the campus of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton on October 19-20, the second time in a year the group came to town to protest what they consider to be the school's discrimination against "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender" students.

Members of Soulforce Q, describing themselves in their media advisory as a "youth-organized bus tour of faith-based colleges," targeted MC for a return visit because of a section in the school's student handbook that states, "Sexual impropriety includes but is not limited to participation in or appearance of engaging in premarital sex, extramarital sex or homosexual activities."

Soulforce considers that section to be discriminatory toward homosexuals.

About 23 protesters held a candlelight vigil on the evening of October 19, on the College Street sidewalk across from the Aven Arts Building toward the rear of the campus. A few students attempted to engage the protesters in brief conversation, but most passed by without acknowledging the protesters. At one point, the occupants of a pickup truck speeding down College Street yelled epithets at the protesters but there was no indication that the occupants were MC students.

Protesters returned October 20 for a morning protest on the College Street sidewalk, followed by a 1 p.m. attempt to enter the campus. A pair of female protesters were detained by campus security officers when they stepped on campus. Local news

outlets reported that the women were later turned over to the Clinton Police Department.

Just before the attempt to enter the campus, protesters gathered on the College Street sidewalk and recited an anonymous letter alleged by protest leaders to be an MC student. A small number of MC students joined the protest line in apparent sympathy with the letter writer.

"It may be a shock to find out that there are gay students on campus, but I can promise you, we are here," the letter stated. "...I have come to grips with being gay. I have spent weeks and weeks on my knees before a loving God who accepts me for who I am. I understand now that He created me this way, and I will not continue to cause myself to suffer any longer."

However, the purported student was not presented or identified because, according to the Soulforce media advisory, "She has stated that she fears the repercussions of coming out and the reactions of her peers and administration."

Eric Pratt, MC vice-president of Christian development, said the school would not allow outside pressure groups to influence the university's mission.

"Soulforce continues to undermine traditional, biblical positions. It is clear that Soulfence is not tolerant of individuals or institutions that hold a conservative, evangelical position."

"We will not allow any group to force their agenda upon us. As a Christian university we will protect and teach the biblical truths held by Mississippi College, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and our constituents," Pratt said.



**REACHING OUT** — Jessica Gibbons (left), a Mississippi College (MC) student and member of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Al., witnesses to Soulfence Q supporter Enzi Tanner of Minneapolis, Mn., during the homosexual rights group's recent protest of the Baptist-affiliated school's prohibition on homosexual activities. The protest, which was conducted on the College Street sidewalk toward the rear of the school's Clinton campus, included an October 19 candlelight vigil for homosexual rights and the October 20 arrest of two protesters for trespassing. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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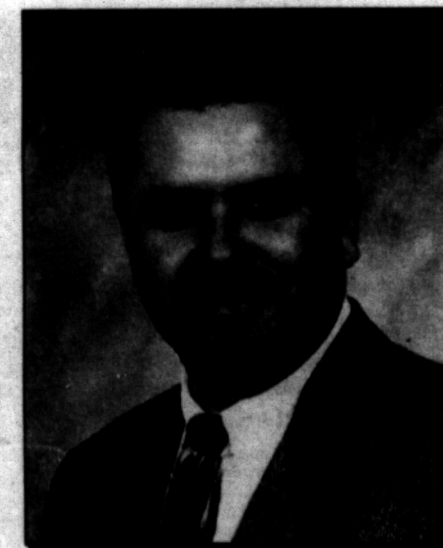
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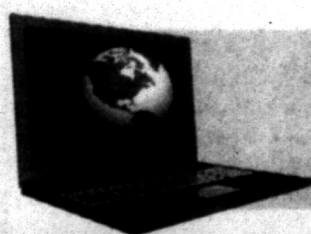
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## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS STATE CHANGES

1. North Winona Church, Winona, has called Van Franklin as associate pastor of worship and music. Franklin is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary.
2. Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, has called Daniel Rainer as pastor. He comes with his wife Kim and their sons Tyler and Tanner. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary.



2. Rainer



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[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)  
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## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Liberty Church, Liberty: Revival, Nov. 2 - 5; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; choir meets 6:20 p.m.; David A. Michel, speaker; Phillip Alford, music.
2. Leesburg Church, Morton: Homecoming, Nov. 2; services, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Randall Jackson, speaker; Jeff Jones, music.
3. Trinity Church, West Point: Revival, Nov. 2 - 5; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, speaker; Charles Dampeer, pastor.
4. Harmony Church, Laurel: Revival, Nov. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Jones, speaker; Jason Walley, music.
5. Crossroads Church, Petal: Revival, Nov. 2 - 5; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; George Berger, speaker; L.D. Warren, music; Jimmie L. Windham, pastor.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon ordination, Paynes Church



2. Deacon ordination, Leflore Church



3. Gillsburg Church anniversary



4. Concord Church, Booneville

1. Paynes Church, Paynes, recently ordained Henry Mounce, Billy Starnes Sr., Scott Broadwater, and Garry Fink as deacons. Shown are Mounce, Starnes, Broadwater, and Fink.

2. Leflore Church, Leflore, ordained Shelly Livingston and Anthony Flanders as deacons Sept. 7. Shown are Livingston, Joyce Livingston, pastor Larry Livingston, Brittany Flanders, and Flanders.

3. Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Alton Foster presented a plaque to pastor Chris Teasley.

4. Concord Church, Booneville, awarded the Gerald C. Mauney \$500 Memorial Scholarship to Micah Wages, Tupelo, a ministerial student at Blue Mountain College. Shown are T.C. & Juanita Mauney, pastor Robert E. Walker, and Wages.

5. Volunteers from Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa, participated in Hurricane Ike disaster relief in Orange and Bridge City, Tex., carrying donations of food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, pet items, water, and baby items. Shown are the participants.

6. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently held a groundbreaking for their new fellowship building. Shown are pastor Jay Anderson and the building and planning committee.

7. GAs from Hillsboro Church, Scott Co., participated in Scott Co. GA Day Aug. 2. Shown are Katie Mitchell, Hailey Jenkins, and Joy Faulkner.

8. Richmond Church, Tupelo, ordained Brian Lindsey and Rodney Lindley as deacons Aug. 31. Shown are Lindsey, Marvin Murphy, Lindley, and pastor Clay Anthony.

9. Pine Grove Church, Picayune, is hosting a Fall Family Day Nov. 1, 4 - 7 p.m., featuring fun jumps, hayrides, pony rides, bonfire, and hot dogs. Free.

10. Washington County Association is sponsoring a conference on poverty Nov. 8 at Parkview Church Greenville, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$30 which includes lunch and materials. For more information, call (662) 335-2862 or 335-1760.



5. Escatawpa Church disaster relief



6. Liberty Hill Church groundbreaking



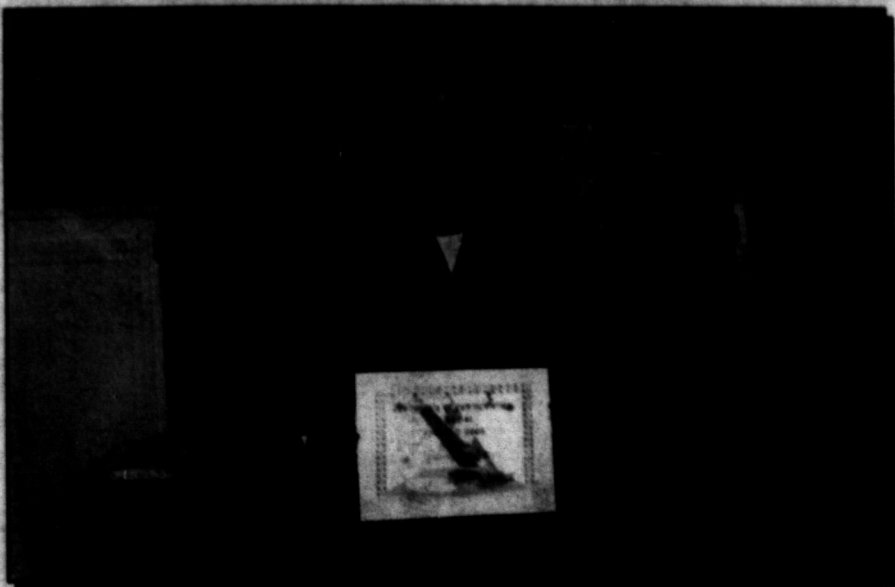
7. Hillsboro Church GAs



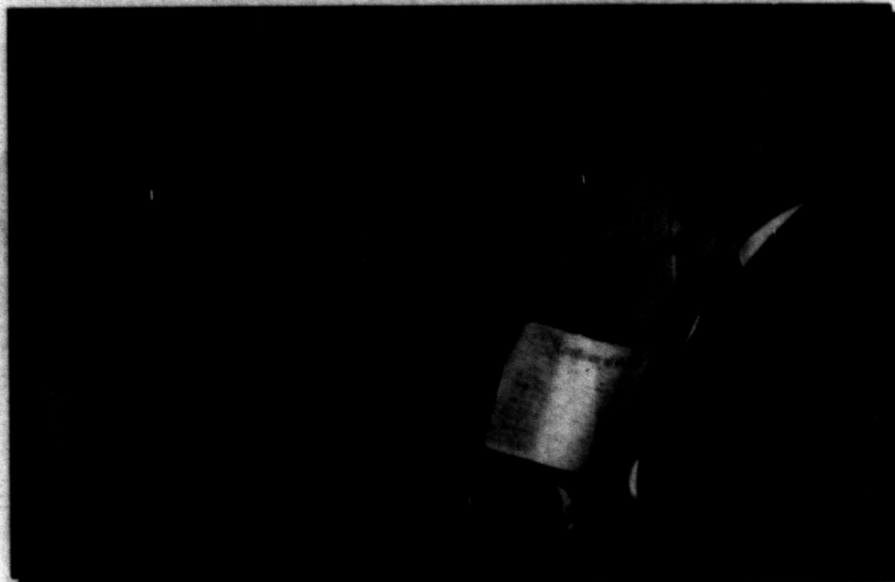
8. Deacon ordination, Richmond Church



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Randall, North Morton Church



12. Wilson ordination



13. Cook and Brashier



14. Conehatta Church children

11. North Morton Church participated in the Scott County GA Day Aug. 2. at Branch Church, Morton. Shown is Destiny Randall.

12. Gillsburg Church ordained Cory Wilson to the ministry Aug. 3. Shown are Jasmine Wilson, Wilson, and Charles Teasley.

13. Parkway Church, Kosciusko, recently recognized Hilda Brashier on her retirement after 34 years of service as church secretary. Shown are Don Cook and Brashier.

14. The 1st - 3rd grade Sunday School class of Conehatta Church, Conehatta, collected money for the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Shown are Bradley Cuevas, Reece Taylor, Nathan Vance, Kelly Hollingsworth, Madison Warren, Scott Michael Round, Lana Morrow, Megan Vance and Lexie Bounds.

15. Philadelphia Church, Wesson, ordained David Strittman and Jeff Haley as deacons. Shown are Tim Edwards, Irene Strittman, Strittman, Becky Haley, Haley, and pastor Bendon Ginn.

16. Chester Church, Choctaw Association, ordained Warren D. Hunt as deacon and licensed Michael Bishop and Chris McClure to the ministry. Shown are Hunt, Bishop, Ray Hawkins, and McClure.

17. Linwood Church, Neshoba Association, recently ordained Carl Mason, Glen Sistrunk, and Rex Savell as deacons. Shown are pastor Mike Skinner, Glenda Skinner, Mason, Laura Mason, Jennie Sistrunk, Sistrunk, Cheryl Savell, and Savell.

18. Branch Church, Morton, held their dedication service for their Christian Life Center. Shown are Dalton Tagert, Tat Simpson, Butch & Faye Myatt, pastor Timothy Phillipson, Barbara Gordon, and Ann Madison.

19. New Hope Church, Foxworth, will have a community block party Nov. 8, 1 - 4 p.m., with jumpers, games, and horse rides. Fish fry, 4 p.m., with Christian comedian and magician Joseph Harris. Preaching contest, 5 p.m. Gospel sing, 6 p.m.



15. Deacon ordination, Philadelphia Church



16. Chester Church ordination and licensing



17. Deacon ordination, Linwood Church



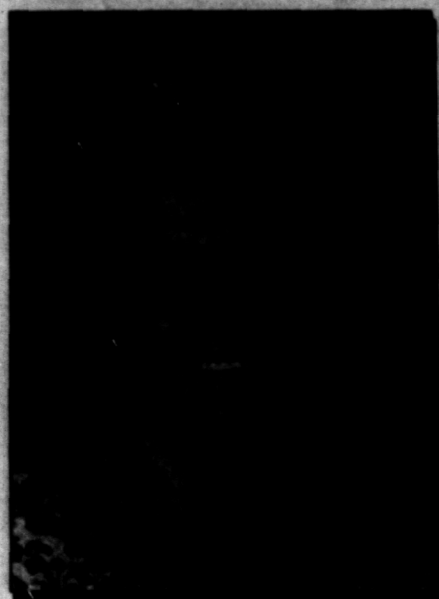
18. Branch Church dedication



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



### MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



1. Dunbar



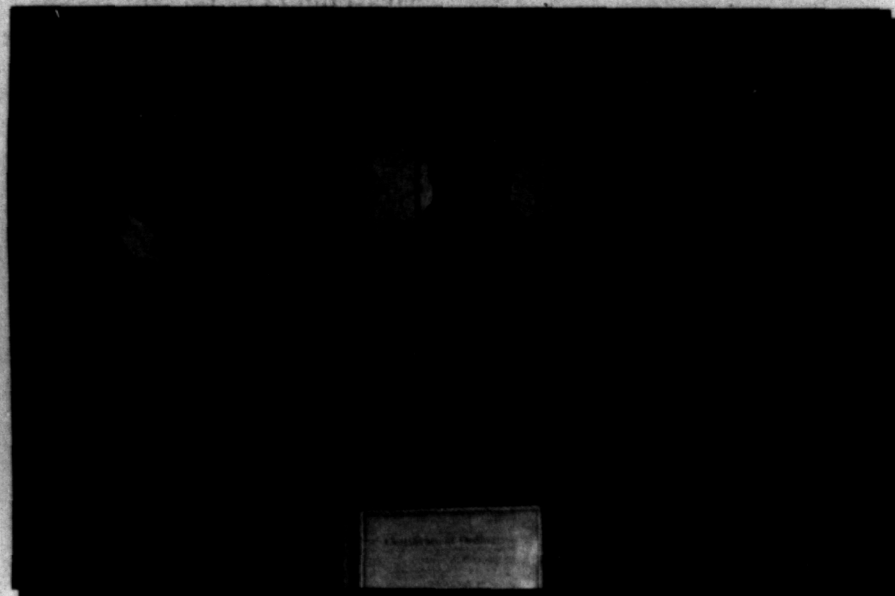
2. Clark ordination, First Church, Plantersville



3. Deacon ordination, Arkadelphia



4. Campbell, Carruth, and Adams



5. McMullen ordination

1. The North American Mission Board has appointed Jamie M. Dunbar as a new missionary in Lakeshore where she will serve as a ministry evangelism consultant. She is a native of Platteville, Wis.

2. First Church, Plantersville, ordained Bobby Clark as deacon Sept. 28. Shown are Clark and pastor Danny Balint.

3. Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, ordained Dewaine Flowers as deacon Sept. 28. Shown are interim pastor Jerry Bishop, Flowers, and Patsy Flowers.

4. Mars Hill Church, Summit, recognized Dianne Carruth, pianist, and Margaret Adams, organist, for 34 years together as church accompanists. Shown are Clay Campbell, Carruth, and Adams.

5. West End Church, West Point, recently ordained Chuck McMullen as deacon. Shown are Jerome Key, McMullen, and pastor Mike Mathena.

6. TeamKID members of Parkview Church, Greenville, collected food items that are expensive to purchase in western Asia. The items will be delivered to missionaries in the area. Shown are the participants.

7. Dumas Church, Dumas, ordained Jeff Burks and Colby Roberts as deacons Sept. 21. Shown are Burks, pastor Scott Hudson, and Roberts.

8. Steele Church, Forest, recently licensed Joseph Warren to the ministry. Shown are pastor Reggie Williams and Warren.

9. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, ordained David Montgomery to the ministry Oct. 19. Shown are Ronnie Robinson, Montgomery, Kathy & Henry Montgomery, and pastor Trent Bilbo.

**The Baptist Record**  
P.O. Box 530 • Jackson,  
MS 39205



6. TeamKIDs, Parkview Church



7. Deacon ordination, Dumas Church



8. Williams and Warren



9. Montgomery ordination



# Warren to support constitution marriage amendment

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP) — Pastor Rick Warren has publicly endorsed a proposed California constitutional marriage amendment, giving supporters a boost in what is expected to be a close vote November 4.

The pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca., who hosted a presidential forum with both major candidates in August, made the endorsement of Proposition 8 in an October 23 e-mail to church members. His statement comes as ProtectMarriage.com, the main organization supporting Prop 8, tries to raise enough money to purchase additional television ads and fight off a well-funded final push by opponents.

If passed, Prop 8 will overturn the May decision by the state high court that legalized homosexual marriage.

"For 5,000 years, every culture and every religion — not just Christianity — has defined marriage as a contract between men

and women," Warren wrote. "There is no reason to change the universal, historical definition of marriage to appease two percent of our population. This is one issue that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on. Both Barack Obama and John McCain have publicly opposed the redefinition of marriage to include so-called 'gay marriage.' Even some gay leaders, like Al Rantel of KABC oppose watering down the definition of marriage."

"Of course, my longtime opposition is well known. This is not a political issue; it is a moral issue that God has spoken clearly about. There is no doubt where we should stand on this issue."

Warren concluded: "This will be a close contest, maybe even decided by a few thousand votes. I urge you to vote yes on Proposition 8 — to preserve the biblical definition of marriage. Don't forget to vote!"

The next eight days could

very well determine whether Prop 8 passes. Through Thursday, opponents of Prop 8 had outraised supporters by a margin of five to one this month in donations of \$1,000 or more, and that money has gone mostly to fund notoriously expensive television advertising in the state.

The most recent big-name donor was Apple, the computer company, which said Friday it was donating \$100,000 to Prop 8 opponents. Levi Strauss, the blue jeans manufacturer based in San Francisco, has also contributed to Prop 8 opponents.

Frank Schubert, campaign manager for ProtectMarriage.com, wrote in an e-mail to in-state and out-of-state supporters that Prop 8 opponents outspent supporters by \$1.9 million on TV ads during the week and "will outspend us in advertising [this] week by another \$2 million."

There is, though, some good fundraising news for Prop 8 supporters. Schubert said in the e-mail that one million dollars of a three million emergency dollar goal had been raised. Additionally, a donor had agreed to match, dollar for dollar, each donation made to ProtectMarriage.com up to a total of one million dollars.

ProtectMarriage.com's own

internal polling now shows the race in a dead heat, Schubert said, after leading in internal polling a week earlier.

ProtectMarriage.com also has released a new ad, meant to counter one by opponents that had claimed public schools would not be required to teach about homosexual marriage if it remained legal. The ad shows



PRESIDENTIAL FORUM — Republican presidential nominee John McCain (left) joins Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren (center) and Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama on stage August 16 during a presidential forum held at the church. (BP photo by Meredith Day)

students on the steps of the San Francisco city hall, celebrating their lesbian teacher's "gay wedding" as part of a mid-day field trip. The ad quotes a school official who called it a "teachable moment."

The ad ends by citing data from the California Department of Education's website showing that 96% of the state's schools districts teach sex-education, which, according to state law, requires schools to teach respect for marriage and committed relationships.

"Children will be taught about gay marriage unless we vote yes on Proposition 8," the ad's narrator concludes.

Schubert said funding is needed to put the ad on air. "As strong as this new ad is... it won't be able to reverse our downward trend in the polls if voters only see it once for every two times that they see ads from our opponents," he wrote. "The future of traditional marriage remains in grave, grave danger."

Schubert, other pro-family leaders, and supporters of Prop 8 are scheduled to gather on the west steps of the state capitol for a "rescue marriage rally."

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June passed a resolution urging Southern Baptists in California to work and vote for the amendment there and for all Southern Baptists and other Christians to pray for its passage.

The resolution passed nearly unanimously. Additionally, in September the executive board of the California Southern Baptist Convention unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the amendment.

Editor's note: For more information about the California marriage amendment, visit [ProtectMarriage.com](http://ProtectMarriage.com).

*Building Champions for Life*



**B** Blue Mountain College

[www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu)

## COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. Four new members were recently inducted into the Blue Mountain College Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society for religious studies and theology. Seated are Michal Roberson of Coldwater and Ashley Waldrep of Athens, Ala. On the back row are Ronald Meeks, director of church relations at BMC, Andrew Bailey of McKenzie, Tenn., Chris Jones of Bellevue, Ill., and Doug Bain, chair of the department of biblical studies at BMC.
2. Mississippi College is hosting Third Day in concert Nov. 23, 6 p.m., at the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Tickets are available at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com), LifeWay Christian Store in Jackson, and at the MC cafeteria; \$25.
3. Mississippi College graduate Tracy H. Suggs will be hosted at a reception at MC Dec. 11, 6 - 9 p.m., in conjunction with a show of her work Dec. 11, 2008 - Jan. 29, 2009 at the Gore Galleries on the MC campus. Her sculptured bust of Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko is in the permanent collection of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.



1. BMC honor society inductees



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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James Howell  
Mrs. Nell W. Dismuke  
Mothers of Deer Creek BC  
Members  
Deer Creek BC  
Doug & Susan James  
Mr. & Mrs. Preston B.  
Fulgham  
Dr. Linuel D. Jayroe  
John & Sara Chilton  
Carol Longcrist  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E.  
Atherton  
Mrs. Maudine Oswalt  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D.  
Hendricks  
Harold & Joy Schell  
Tamara Morrison, Sherry,  
Rachel, Sarah, Zach &  
Families  
Bro. Bill Stanford  
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie Nutt  
Bro. Roger Webb  
Turkey Creek BC  
Miss Sydni Leigh Woolley  
Mildred Dauphin

### MEMORIALS

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Brumfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Cowart  
Clyde & Mary Gill  
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Pittman  
Joel Ann Grice  
Randy & Donna Grice  
Ricky Grice  
Robin Grice  
Ms. Margarette A. Berry  
Shirley Meier  
Lorayne Spring  
Julie Grice  
Evelyn Anderson  
Mrs. Sue Germany &  
Family  
Lee Anne & Ronnie  
Venable  
Mr. Porter Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie  
Manton  
Catherine Marguerite Roger  
Apple  
Mr. James C. Peay  
Mrs. Wilma Barrett  
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Mr. Walter Bell  
Dennis Brackin  
Jerry Fortenberry  
Grace Jones  
Jim Payne  
Michel Turner  
Gayle Price  
Wilma Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald  
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Mr. Cecil Bonner  
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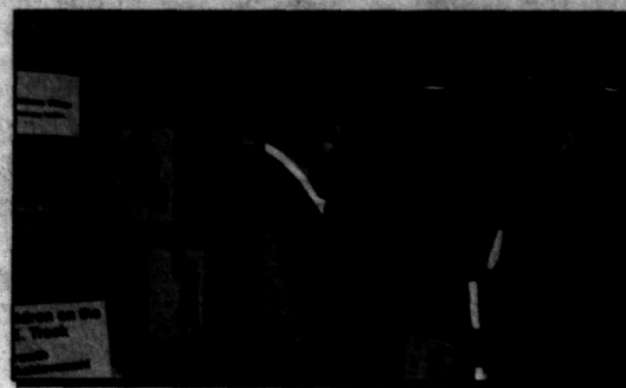
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Mrs. Audrey J. Howell  
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Violet Hubbard  
Mrs. Jennie S. Foote  
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Springs  
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Lowell Lofton  
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Brown  
The Disaster Recovery  
Division  
Ms. Erminia B. Oliver

Mrs. Laura Gay Roberson  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene  
Trussell  
Bill Sanders  
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland  
Joe T. Scott  
Debbie Scott Bentley  
Kathy Scott Dickson  
Kimberly Scott Stricker  
Keith Scott

Mrs. Irene Sessions  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E.  
Green  
Dr. Bob Simmons  
Lauderdale County  
Baptist Assn.  
Dr. Rebecca Crowe Simmons  
Mrs. Elmer E. Holmes  
William Sorey  
Leaf River BC  
Tim Storm  
Eddie & Jane Woodruff

Billie Jean Nelson Terrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Olen S.  
Broom  
Mrs. Mary Ann Trussell  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene  
Trussell  
Lucy Turner  
Sr Adult Ladies SSC  
Arlington Hgts BC  
Jimmy Vanfrease  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L.  
Manton

Mr. James Dale Vickers  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W.  
Thompson  
Larry Vowell  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald  
Stanford  
Bertie Walton  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King  
Shirley White  
Ms. Elaine T. Donovan



Rory Lee, BCV Executive Director, served as The Baptist Children's Village missionary at the 2008 Global Impact Celebration hosted by Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, Mississippi. The three-day event gave missionaries each an opportunity to meet with small groups and large groups alike to share updates on the work in their area of ministry, as well as offer opportunities to church members to join in the mission work. Pictured L-R Rory Lee, Jackie Bourne and Pat Nation.



The youth of Union Baptist Church in Smith County recently did a work project at The Baptist Children's Village. The group worked on grounds cleaning up of flower beds, raking leaves and pine straw as well as some other lawn care. Mrs. Marsha Hays and Mr. Josh Currie led the group.



The Ramey Cottage on the new Naniah Waiya campus of The Baptist Children's Village is near completion. There are several opportunities, both financially and in-kind, still available for you to engage in to help complete this project. Please contact Chrystelle Thames by phone at 601-922-2242 or by email at [cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

### 2008 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

RORY LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Baptist Children's Village has expanded its service as a statewide ministry to children by increasing the number of locations throughout Mississippi from five to seven. Those locations include: Deanash Campus in Wiggins, Dickerson Place Campus in Brookhaven, Farrow Manor Campus in Independence, India Nunnery Campus in Jackson (Central Headquarters), Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley, Robbins Campus in Columbia and the newest campus in Nanih Waiya.

This expansion gets us closer to the goal of positioning a Baptist Children's Village campus within 50 miles of any child needing our services. This increased accessibility to families will allow us to more effectively minister to children and families who need us.

Over the last 12 months, 303 children were served by The Baptist Children's Village. With each child, the mission statement, "to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy, and mature", and the S.A.F.E. Track program are emphasized. The S.A.F.E. Track program brings into focus Spiritual Growth, Academic Achievement, Family Values, and Emotional Strength.

There are specific individual goals set in each of the S.A.F.E. Track areas for every resident as they are admitted to the BCV. These goals are discussed and reviewed with the resident to get their input, and to let them know what is necessary to meet the established goals. The goals themselves, and progress toward attaining those goals, are reviewed for each resident every six months.

Services at local churches, daily Bible studies in the cottages and individual conversation about spiritual matters are continually emphasized as a foundational part of the BCV ministry. Over the past year, 17 children made professions of faith. This brings the total to 112 over the past four years.

Five residents graduated from high school in May. Four will be attending college in the fall and one enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Two of those attending college will attend Blue Mountain College.

Through the Cooperative Program of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, The BCV receives 13.5% of its operating budget. An additional 40% of the budget comes from church gifts over and above the CP gifts. We are grateful for the continued support of this ministry.



# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Jesus is the Only Savior

Romans 9:33-10:15

By Bobby McKay

A few months ago my wife and I were traveling to a nearby town to take care of some errands. There is a particular road that we always travel that makes the trip a few minutes shorter. Upon arriving at our familiar path, we were greeted by a sign that warned us that approximately one mile ahead the road would be closed due to the construction of a new bridge. At this point in the story, I need to let you in on a secret. We had seen this sign many times before and made the needed adjustments with the provided detour. However, on this particular day we were convinced that those working on the road had completed the job and had simply not taken the construction sign down yet. Everything was going great.

We were enjoying the familiar scenery until we reached the construction site. At that point I was welcomed with workers scratching their heads and a large hole where the old bridge used to be. I now had two options. My first instinct was to reverse about 200 feet and try to jump over the construction. I quickly decided against this, knowing my mid-size SUV was not capable of such a task. I had to resort to plan B, which was to turn around and use the detour. I smiled and waved embarrassingly as I turned around and left the scene of my foolishness. What I lost in time that day I gained in humility and the reminder to obey posted warnings.

Paul brings to our attention this week the teaching of Christ



McKay

as the one and only Savior for the world. Much like a construction sign on the highway, the salvation Jesus offers seems to go unnoticed by much of today's world. There will come a day when both the Christian and non-Christian will have no doubt that Jesus is the sole giver of eternal life. For the Christian, we will worship and enjoy the Lord for all eternity. As for the lost, they will experience an endless separation from the presence and the glory of God. I believe the worst punishment a person in hell will experience is the knowledge that if they would have simply believed in Jesus for salvation while on earth, damnation could have been avoided.

### I. Rock Theology (Romans 9:33)

This one verse sets the stage for deep teachings about the atonement of the Lord. Paul uses the words "stone of stumbling" and "rock of offense" (NASB), to provide a rock-solid theological analogy of Christ.

Many of the Jews of Jesus' day felt that because they were God's chosen people, they did not need to accept a suffering Savior. They placed their faith in rituals, rules, and religion. When Jesus came on the scene, everything changed. Paul urged them to believe on the Lord for salvation and they "will not be disappointed" (NASB). The sign they could not avoid for eternal life was Jesus. Paul was making clear to them that rituals and tradition would not satisfy the Heavenly Father. For the Jews to be saved, they would have to heed the signs and humble themselves in obedience to God.

### II. Righteousness Tested (Romans 10:1-13)

Paul opens chapter 10 with thoughts on zeal. He never questioned their eagerness, just their eternity. He noted they were enthusiastic, but their enthusiasm was in the wrong place. Many of these Jews (Paul even calls them "brethren") had a false sense of security in their own knowledge. They had even gone so far as to define righteousness by their own standards and

not God's. They wanted to claim the law and their interpretation of Mt. Sinai over the love and independence from death found at Mt. Calvary.

### III. Relevant Testimony (Romans 10:14-15)

We conclude this portion of Scripture with a series of questions from Paul. He is soliciting believers for a response. How can we expect the lost world to hear about Jesus unless we share? I realize that the souls of people are not dependent upon us, but we should sense the urgency in sharing the gospel. I am aware these verses use the word "preacher". However, the great privilege of sharing Jesus with someone is not limited to a particular gender. One of the most underappreciated blessings the church has is godly women that share and practice their faith on a regular basis. It does not matter if you are male or female in kingdom work. If you are a child of the King, you have a relevant, life transforming story to tell to the lost world!

McKay is pastor of Oakvale Church, Oak Vale.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## When Responding to Loss

2 Samuel 1:1-4:12

By Ginger M. Caughman

"Tears are God's emotional escape valves!" It is true, guys and gals, it's OK to cry!

When David and his men had heavy losses, the city burned and their women and children captured—the men cried in loud wails. "So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep" (1 Samuel 30: 4 NIV). Some of his men taking their frustration out on him were ready to stone David. Were you ever the brunt of someone's anger and frustration because of circumstances?

### David Found Strength in God!

We had such a long reading last week (eight chapters; 1 Samuel 24-31); I hope you didn't miss a powerful verse that I just underlined in my Bible: "David found strength in the Lord his God!" (1 Sam.30:6b).

That truth certainly flows into today's theme on responding to loss.

### Finding Stability in a Turbulent World

Our last unit is titled "Demonstrations of Stability." Units One and Two declared our God, the Lord Jehovah, the source of stability. By His grace as we serve Him faithfully and trust Him alone, He is the foundation of our lives. Unit Three concerns demonstrations of God's stability as we face tough questions of life and death and purpose. Complex family problems may include tangled relationships, lust, pornography, adultery, or health issues. What does Scripture say regarding these issues? How does God want us to act and react to life's circumstances?

Israel wanted a king so God led Samuel to anoint two: first Saul, then the shepherd boy David. In the study's beginning



Caughman

there were four major characters: Hannah, Samuel, Saul and David. Now there's David. All the others have died. We focus on the first two chapters of 2 Samuel, but try to read the first four chapters in one setting to get the background.

### 1. Find Ways to

#### Express Sorrow

The messenger was killed bearing bad news of Saul and Jonathan's death. Afterward David mourned and led his army and his nation in mourning (2 Sam. 1:17-19). He sang his lament and taught the people of Judah the song in a popular poetry book, Jashar (Mentioned also in Joshua 10:13).

### 2. Acknowledge What Is Lost

David honored Saul in life and death as God's anointed even though Saul had mistreated David. In his song David paid tribute to Saul as Israel's provider and protector and grieved for the loss of his dear friend Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:24-27). We can honestly acknowledge our grief and losses to God and others.

### 3. Look for New Opportunities of Service

David knew since childhood he was God's anointed and prayed for the Lord to show him what to do next about establishing his kingship. After grieving through singing and praying, David moved his family to Hebron with his men and their families (2 Sam. 2:1-4a). The citizens of Judah made David king over the clans of Judah where he reigned 7 years. Chronicles records the growth of his family (1 Chron. 3:1-4a). Hebron was the burial place of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Becoming king of Judah was David's first step in becoming king of the whole nation.

### 4. Show Kindness to Others

The northern tribes remained loyal to Saul's royal house after Saul and Jonathan's deaths. David blessed the men of Jabesh-Gilead for burying Saul and Jonathan. He also invited them to come into his kingdom (2 Sam. 2:4b-10).

War between the houses of Saul and David lasted a long time (3:1) but gradually victory over the Northern tribes was won as they turned to

David (2 Samuel 3 and 4).

This lesson's focus is on the death of Saul and Jonathan but there's much more bloodshed and death in these passages. David also mourned when Abner, the leader of Saul's army was murdered (3:31) and when Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth was murdered (4:7-12).

These are recommended resources: "When Godly People Do Ungodly Things", Beth Moore; "Recovering from the Losses of Life", H. Norman Wright; "Strength for the Journey," Paul B. Carlisle and James P Porowski; and "Free to Forgive," Robert Jeffress.

Will you pray fervently for spiritual revival in America? On Tuesday, November 4th we will elect a new president. Like David, let us remember, "The Lord is my Shepherd!" "He cares for me, watches over and preserves me. The words are in the present tense. Each believer is under the pastoral care of Jehovah" (Charles Spurgeon). And so we are!

Caughman teaches a senior ladies Sunday School class at First Church Magee.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# Book seeks Christians' recommitment to Bible truth

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Only 17% of Protestant churchgoers in America demonstrate a "decent" level of spiritual maturity, but a widespread recommitment to biblical standards has the potential to ignite revival, says a new book by Brad Waggoner, vice president of B&H Publishing Group.

The 17% represents those who scored the equivalent of 80% or higher on a spiritual formation survey designed to measure key areas of Christian discipleship.

"Let's not make things look worse or better than they are," Waggoner writes in *The Shape of Faith to Come: Spiritual Formation and the Future of Discipleship*, just released by B&H Publishing Group, the publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We must embrace the truth. We must set aside whatever self-centered or self-serving, biased filter we look through," Waggoner writes. "No one is helped by our dodging or spinning the truth. Let's own up to the facts and work on the solutions."

In May 2007 and May 2008, Waggoner surveyed 2,500 Protestants who attend church on a regular basis. Using an evaluation tool called the



Waggoner

Spiritual Formation Inventory (SFI), he evaluated seven domains of spiritual formation: learning truth, obeying God and denying self, serving God and others, sharing Christ, exercising faith, seeking God, and building relationships.

A 30-year passion for spiritual formation drove Waggoner to write the book.

"I love to watch people be transformed by the power of the Gospel and the renewing impact of God's

Word," he said. "However, in observing many of our churches I have become very concerned about the lack of focus upon qualitative discipleship. Too many leaders and churches measure success by numbers rather than by the transformation of hearts, minds and character."

"The research that led to this book is a wake-up call for anyone who is serious about the biblical mandate to make disciples," he said.

The book prescribes a biblical standard for discipleship rather than simply reporting statistics, Waggoner added. Each chapter presents a biblical norm and subsequently shows how Protestant churchgoers measure up.

"God's redemptive plan ultimately leads toward heaven, but the journey

between now and then is to be one of radical transformation," Waggoner said. "Way too many professed Christians seem to demonstrate little evidence of biblical spiritual formation. This book will explain what it is that God desires for His followers and how to move forward on the journey of transformation."

Among the book's findings:

- Only 16% of Protestant churchgoers read their Bible daily and another 20% read it "a few times a week."

- Just 23% "agreed strongly" with the statement, "When I come to realize that some aspect of my life is not right in God's eyes, I make the necessary changes."

- Among evangelicals, 70% have identified their primary spiritual gifts through a class, spiritual gifts inventory, or some other process.

- In the past six months, 29% of respondents said they shared with someone how to become a Christian twice or more, 14% did so once, and 57% did not share at all.

- A full 47% of Protestant churchgoers admitted to often just "going through the motions" during the singing and prayer portions of worship services. One-quarter strongly disagreed that their worship is routine.

- Fasting is perhaps the most neglected spiritual discipline, with 80% of respondents saying they had not fasted during the past six months.

When surveyed one year later, the churchgoers evidenced very little change in overall discipleship or spiritual formation. However, a majority believed they had grown spiritually over the course of the year.

"We discovered a problem with these self-perceptions for growth or decline," Waggoner said. "Fifty-five percent of our respondents believed they had grown spiritually in the last year. However, based on SFI scores, only 3.5% showed a statistically significant level of growth."

The No. 1 catalyst for spiritual growth is simple: daily Bible reading, Waggoner said, adding that if pastors emphasize Bible reading and church members do it, progress can be expected.

Purchasers of the first edition of *The Shape of Faith to Come* will receive an access code to complete the SFI online and evaluate their own spiritual development.

"I will be thrilled if this book, and the SFI that comes with the book, help individual believers and church leaders engage in very honest and objective assessments of the degree to which they are becoming more like Christ and the degree to which our churches are actually producing biblical disciples and not mere 'churchgoers,'" Waggoner said.

## New federal law aims to reduce Down Syndrome abortions

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Bush has signed into law a measure that may help to curtail the number of abortions of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome and other conditions.

The Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act requires parents whose children receive a diagnosis of Down syndrome or another malady to be provided with the latest information on the condition and be informed of support services available. This would apply to a diagnosis on a child before birth or until a year after birth.

The measure also would establish a registry of families willing to adopt special needs children.

The legislation seeks to address the reported lack of information and support given to parents whose unborn children test positive for conditions such as Down syndrome.

It has been estimated about 90% of American children diagnosed in the womb with Down syndrome are aborted, sometimes after their parents have been given hopeless descriptions of their futures. A similar abortion percentage exists for unborn babies diagnosed with spina bifida, cystic fibrosis, and dwarfism, the bill's sponsor, Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., has reported.

"This is a great victory for the culture of life we should all seek to promote," Brownback said in a written statement after Bush signed the bill October 8. "[The 90% abortion rate for

unborn babies diagnosed with Down syndrome] is much too high and suggests that we as a society are not doing everything we can to protect every human life, at every stage."

The new law means parents "will be more likely to receive up-to-date, scientific information about life expectancy, clinical course, intellectual and functional development, and prenatal and postnatal treatment options," the National Down Syndrome Society and National Down Syndrome

Congress said in a joint release after Congress approved the legislation.

Currently, "the information that is all too often being provided... is outdated and inaccurate," the organizations said. "The treatment options, functional development, opportunities and accomplishments of individuals with Down syndrome have improved dramatically over the years, yet decades old stereotypes still persist."

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

(ACOG) made a recommendation in January 2007 that pro-life advocates said would likely increase the number of abortions of Down syndrome-diagnosed babies. ACOG recommended all pregnant women, no matter their age, be offered testing for the condition. Previously, women 35 years and older were automatically offered testing for the condition, according to ACOG.

The bill's enactment came less than six weeks after Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and her family, which includes a

son with Down syndrome, came into the national spotlight. The Republican nominee for vice president learned through prenatal testing that her fifth child, Trig, would be born with Down syndrome.

Palin, a pro-lifer, gave birth to Trig in April.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by voice vote September 25, two days after the Senate approved it by unanimous consent.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was the lead cosponsor of the Brownback-authored bill.

## Missourians to fight gambling law changes in state

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — Missouri's casinos are offering \$100 million or more in additional funding for the state's schools. All they ask in return is the elimination of all future competitors and unlimited access to Missourians' pocketbooks.

When Missouri voters approved riverboat gambling in 1992, they included a limit on the amount anyone could lose "per excursion," currently understood to be a two-hour period (because the "riverboats" actually are docked).

According to Evelio Silvera, executive director of Casino Watch, a volunteer organization devoted to opposing the expansion of gambling, the loss limit is the last remnant of the original law approved by voters.

Also going by the wayside would be safeguards to assist those who become addicted to

gambling. Under current law, compulsive gamblers can register on the Disassociated Persons List (DAP), rendering them ineligible to receive the plastic cards that casinos issue to patrons. Those on the list, therefore, are not admitted to the casinos, but since the cards are used to keep track of loss limits, there would be no need to issue them.

Law enforcement officials are concerned that if Proposition A passes it will take away the value of the mandatory identification requirements in tracking crime. Thanks to the players card which is tied to the loss limit, the Missouri Highway Patrol was able to solve more than 95.8% (1,611) of 1,682 casino-related crimes committed last year.

While schools allegedly would benefit from the passage of Proposition A, Silvera said

schools actually are being exploited. In a statement to the Missouri Joint Committee on Education, members of the Senate Minority Caucus noted that upwards of half the total of Missouri schools would not receive any money at all, and only 19 cents of every dollar would go to the few eligible schools.

This would occur because Proposition A does not give the money directly to school districts but instead filters it through a state funding formula.

Proposition A was a key focus of Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission (CLC) meeting September 25.

"If you look at this ballot initiative and think that it's going to protect your community, you're horribly mistaken," said Phil Gloyer, CLC chairman and a layman from

Forest Park Church in Joplin. "The gambling industry is never going to stop. This is just one more step towards what they would like to see is a saturation of our state with opportunities for people to gamble..."

"I think if a community doesn't have a casino in their neighborhood right now, I can understand why they'd want to protect that, but it's shortsighted to think that this ballot initiative would actually provide that protection in the long run," Gloyer said. "In fact, in doing away with the loss limit, it's going to increase the amount of money that people are losing at casinos, and it's going to increase the needs that we have around the state to address the problems that come out of gambling. The casino 100 miles away still affects your community."